GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:278
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
SETTING UP OF NATIONAL FOREST COMMISSION
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up a National Forest Commission to reform the entire forest administration;

(b) if so, the details indicating the terms and reference of the said commission alongwith the other works assigned to it;

(c) by when it is likely to be submit its report;

(d) whether the Government targets to bring 33 percent of the country`s geographical area under forest cover; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this direction so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 278 FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2004 REGARDING SETTING UP OF NATIONAL FOREST COMMISSION SHRI BHUBNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA AND SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Government has constituted the National Forest Commission on 7.02.2003 to review the working of the Forest and Wildlife Sector with following Terms of Reference:

(i) Review and assess the existing policy and legal framework and their impact in a holistic manner from the ecological, economic, social and cultural viewpoint.

(ii) Examine the current status of forest administration and the forestry institutions both at all India and State level to meet the emerging needs of the civil society.

(iii) Make recommendations indicating specific policy options for achieving sustainable forest and wildlife management and ecological security.

(iv) Suggest ways and means to make forest administration more effective with a view to help to achieve the above policy options.

(v) Establish meaningful partnership and interface between forestry management and local communities including tribal.

(c) The tenure of the National Forest Commission is two years from the date of its constitution. The Commission`s term has further been extended by another six months.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Consultations have been held with various stakeholders to devise suitable interventions and State/UT Governments have been requested to achieve higher targets.